

904

HALL OF FAME GAME SERIES

The 100th anniversary of the founding of baseball in Cooperstown, N.Y., was observed with a nationwide Baseball Centennial celebration in 1939. At that time the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated and a refurbished Doubleday Field was formally opened.

Starting the following year, the two major leagues arranged for an annual Hall of Fame Game to be played in Cooperstown to provide funds for the maintenance of the Shrine and Doubleday Field.

The American and National Leagues determine the teams which will represent them in the game each year, rotating the distinction among all member teams as much as possible. The appearances of the teams, umpires and official scorer are supervised by the league presidents, Leland S. MacPhail, Jr. of the American League and Charles S. Feeney of the National League.

This year's game is the thirty-fourth in the series. Travel restrictions during World War II prevented the playing of a game in 1945, and the games of 1944 and 1962 were rained out. The standing of the series to date is as follows:

	W	L	T
American League	19	13	1
National League	13	19	1

HISTORY OF DOUBLEDAY FIELD

Doubleday Field is located on what was once a cow pasture owned by Elihu Phinney. It was on this plot of ground that Abner Doubleday and other Cooperstown schoolboys are believed to have played the first game of baseball in 1839.

Several years after the 1907 decision designating Cooperstown as the birthplace of baseball, local citizens began a move to acquire the Phinney lot as a public playground and memorial to Doubleday. In 1920 Doubleday Field was formally opened for the first time with a game between two local teams. John A. Heydler, then National League president, umpired the first inning.

In 1938, in anticipation of the Baseball Centennial celebration, a new steel and concrete grandstand was built and other steps were taken to bring the park up to major league standards. The project was completed in time for the start of the celebration on May 6, 1939.

Since then, new sections have replaced the old uncovered stands until only the grandstand remains from the park that was opened in 1939. The first base section of stands was donated in 1959 by Thomas A. Yawkey, owner of the Boston Red Sox.

Doubleday Field now has a seating capacity of 9,791.

— 34th annual — Hall of Fame Game



Doubleday Field
Cooperstown, N.Y.
August 9, 1976

Official Scorecard 20¢

